

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated May 31, 2006, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 18 are rejected to by the Examiner. Claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 18 remain pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,752,241 to Matsuoka (hereinafter "Matsuoka") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,680,505 to Funada (hereinafter "Funada"). Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuoka in view of Funada, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,988,725 to Vallee (hereinafter "Vallee"). Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuoka in view of Funada, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,035,655 to Hesse (hereinafter "Hesse").

The rejection of claims 1, 2, 4 and 18 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 18 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a second curved wing for directly contacting a portion of the wire." None of the cited references including Matsuoka and Funada, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention.

In the Response to Arguments in the Office Action, the Examiner states: "In the Specification Applicant discloses the second curved wing is curved relative to the first portion and not itself curved." No reference to the specification is given to support this statement, and Applicant is unable to determine what portion of the Specification that the Examiner is referencing. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner please provide this reference and further clarification of the alleged second curved wing and first portion. Applicant stands, by its previous argument that the connector-side terminal 5b is clearly straight and not a curved wing as required by the claimed invention. Applicant believes that Matsuoka's connector-side terminal 5b is clearly straight and not a curved wing. Furthermore, the connector-side terminal 5b is inserted into the connector part 1b of the socket 5b but is not directly connected to the wire.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 2, 4 and 18 are allowable over the cited references.

Further, claims 5 and 6 are allowable over Mastuoka and Funada because they depend from claim 1. Neither Vallee nor Hesse cure the deficiencies of Mastuoka and Funada identified above, so claims 5 and 6 are allowable over the cited art.


Applicants believe the foregoing remarks place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.*

Respectfully submitted,

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